



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 3, 2008

For immediate release

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND RECEPTION APRIL 7

**MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135 or
karen.grimes@dnr.iowa.gov**

COON RAPIDS – Elizabeth Garst of Coon Rapids will be hosting an informal reception for the Environmental Protection Commissioners following their tour of the POET Biorefining plant on April 7.

The reception will be held at Garst's River House, 1313 Fig Avenue, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Garst chairs the Natural Resources Commission that provides direction for DNR's conservation and recreation activities. The reception is open to the public.

Garst has also been a driving force behind the Garst family's donation of more than 1,800 acres to form the Whiterock Conservancy, a cooperative effort to protect and restore diverse habitats and economically sustainable farming practices.

The reception will be followed by dinner at Charlie's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m., at the corner of Hwy. 71 N and 18 Street in Carroll. The commission's regular meeting will be held April 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Conservation Board, 22676 Swan Lake Drive in Carroll. Public participation will open at 10:30 a.m.

Look for more information about the agenda items on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.gov.

The members of the commission are David Petty, chair, Eldora; Charlotte Hubbell, vice chair, Des Moines; Suzanne Morrow, secretary, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine; Ralph Klemme, LeMars; Susan Heathcote, Des Moines; Paul Johnson, Decorah; and Scott Mahr, Coralville. The director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

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MIDAMERICAN ENERGY JOINS THE CLIMATE REGISTRY

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, Emission Inventory, 515-281-8468

DES MOINES – MidAmerican Energy has become a Founding Reporter in The Climate Registry. The Climate Registry is a non-profit organization established to measure and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in a common, accurate and transparent manner consistent across industry sectors and borders. Thirty-nine U.S. states (including Iowa), six Canadian provinces, three Native American tribes, two Mexican states and the District of Columbia are the founders of the organization.

MidAmerican will start by reporting 2008 GHG emissions for all its Iowa facilities.

“MidAmerican Energy has demonstrated exemplary environmental leadership by stepping forward to support The Climate Registry in its preliminary stages. We are deeply grateful for their integral support in helping to address the challenge of climate change,” said Gina McCarthy, chair of The Climate Registry.

By voluntarily committing to measure, independently verify, and publicly report their greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis utilizing The Climate Registry General Reporting Protocol, MidAmerican Energy Company is demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship. The Protocol is based on the internationally recognized greenhouse gas emissions measurement standards of the World Resources Institute and World Business Council on Sustainability. MidAmerican Energy Company will begin reporting with its 2008 data.

“The Climate Registry provides a common tool to track greenhouse gas emissions and will provide accurate data to scientists and policymakers working to reduce emissions and address carbon sequestration,” said Richard Leopold, Director of the Department of Natural Resources. “MidAmerican Energy should be applauded for voluntarily joining the Registry. The Department of Natural Resources encourages other Iowa industries, educational institutions, nonprofits, and other organizations to follow MidAmerican Energy’s lead and report their greenhouse gas emissions to The Climate Registry.”

Entities that join before May 1, 2008 are eligible to receive Founding Reporter status.

About The Climate Registry

Incorporated March 2007 in Washington, DC, The Climate Registry provides accurate and transparent measurement of greenhouse gas emissions and ensures consistency of measurement metrics across industry sectors and borders. The Climate Registry accounting infrastructure supports both voluntary and regulatory programs. Iowa joined The Climate Registry in July 2007, which fulfilled the legal mandate from Senate File 485 to create a voluntary greenhouse gas registry in cooperation with states' climate change efforts. The DNR Air Quality Bureau provides administrative support for The Climate Registry in Iowa. More information is posted at www.theclimateregistry.org or in Iowa contact Marnie Stein at 515-281-8468.

Writer: Mindy Kralicek

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ALCOA JOINS CLIMATE REGISTRY

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, Emission Inventory, 515-281-8468

DAVENPORT – Alcoa Inc. has become a Founding Reporter in The Climate Registry. Alcoa operates in more than 300 locations in 44 countries, including a secondary aluminum production facility in Davenport, Iowa. Alcoa will begin transitional reporting in 2009 with its facilities in the state of Washington. All other Alcoa locations, including its Iowa facility, will report beginning in 2010.

By voluntarily committing to measure, independently verify, and publicly report its greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis utilizing The Climate Registry General Reporting Protocol, Alcoa is demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship. The Protocol is based on the internationally recognized greenhouse gas emissions measurement standards of the World Resources Institute and World Business Council on Sustainability.

Writer: Mindy Kralicek

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FROM THE BOTTOM UP – DNR TO UNVEIL RIVER TRASH SCULPTURE ON EARTH DAY

MEDIA CONTACT: Jackie Gautsch at Jackie.Gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov or (319) 335-1761.

DES MOINES – Once deposited like industrial scat upon the earth, trash dredged from the Raccoon River bottom last June by hundreds of volunteers on the DNR's annual

Project AWARE river cleanup event will be celebrated on Earth Day – not as trash, but as art.

On April 22, the public is invited to view the sculpture from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the main lobby atrium of the Wallace State Office Building, located at 502 East Ninth St. in Des Moines. Artist David Williamson and DNR staff will be available during this time to greet visitors, answer questions, and most importantly, gather public input to complete the project.

Rather than a finished piece, the unveiling will reveal a sculpture-in-progress – your help is requested to complete the final transformation of the trash into finished sculpture. As a collaborative effort amongst cleanup volunteers, everyday citizens, and artist David Williamson, more public input is needed before this metamorphosis can be complete.

“Due to the collaborative nature of this project, we encourage visitors to join us on Earth Day to add their thoughts and inputs,” Williamson says. “With the sculpture about 75 percent complete, this is a great opportunity to welcome public input and the exchange of ideas that are so crucial to this type of project.”

This year marks the fourth sculpture to be unveiled as part of Project AWARE’s artistic offshoot known as “*Riverse*,” but it is the first year a *Riverse* sculpture will serve a functional purpose. While its artistic design will make it an interpretive piece that honors the work of volunteers, promotes environmental stewardship, and tells the story of Project AWARE, it will also be designed for use as a gate for the DNR building at the Iowa State Fair.

Along with the sculpture, a poem created through a similar collaborative effort, entitled *Prospectus*, will also be unveiled, and sculptures from the previous three years of *Riverse* will be on display.

AWARE organizers hope *Riverse* will return for this summer’s annual Project AWARE event, which takes place June 14-21, from Mason City to Cedar Falls on the Winnebago, Shell Rock, and Cedar rivers.

For more information, please visit www.iowaprojectaware.com or contact Jackie Gautsch at Jackie.Gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov or (319) 335-1761.

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MECHANICAL FAILURE LEADS TO FAIRFIELD WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

MEDIA CONTACT: Dennis Ostwinkle, DNR Washington field office, at (319) 653-2135 or Dennis.Ostwinkle@dnr.iowa.gov.

FAIRFIELD — About 950 gallons of untreated wastewater discharged to a stream in Fairfield Wednesday night.

A failed relay switch on a pump led to the sewer discharge from a manhole south of Jefferson County Park, which began around 9:45 p.m. and lasted about 15 minutes. The wastewater ran into an unnamed tributary of Cedar Creek. People and their pets are advised to avoid the area for 48 hours.

The city repaired the switch and pump Wednesday night.

Writer: Jessie Brown